REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 1-17 are rejected.

Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended and claims 2, 6 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice.

After the entry of the amendments submitted herein, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-17 remain pending.

Objection to Drawings

The examiner objects to the informal drawings filed with the application. In response, formal drawing sheets replacing the informal drawings are attached. Please replace the originally filed drawings with these replacement sheets.

Referring to FIG. 2B, a typographical error in the originally filed drawing FIG. 2B has been corrected in the replacement sheet. In the originally filed drawing FIG. 2B, the pixel region 202 was mislabeled as "2"

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (FIG. 1C) (the Prior Art) in view of Shimizu (U.S. patent No. 7,021,158).

In response the independent claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define the invention as supported by the Specification as originally filed. The amended claims 1, 5 and 9 now recite the following limitation:

... wherein the via and the contact metal pad overlap the poly-Si film layer completely when viewed through the sensing electrode and the via is aligned longitudinally with the at least one drain electrode, whereby the contact metal pad's size is reduced thus reducing the sensing electrode's overlap with the contact metal pad.

This feature of the present invention, further clarified by the amendment, allows the inventors to maximize the aperture ratio. The prior art references cited by the Examiner, whether taken

singly or in combination do not teach this aspect of the present invention. Therefore, claims 1, 5 and 9 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Because the independent claims 1, 5 and 9 are allowable over the combination of the Prior Art and Shimizu, the dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13-17 are also allowable over the combination of the Prior Art and Shimizu. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-17 and their allowance are requested.

Claims 4, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Prior Art and Shimizu and further in view of den Boer (US patent No. 5,641,974).

Because the amendments to the independent claims 1, 5 and 9 distinguish those claims from the combination of the Prior Art and Shimizu, and the teachings of den Boer does not cure that deficiency, the amendments presented herein overcome the rejection of claims 4, 8 and 12 also. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 8 and 12 and their allowance are requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and their allowance are kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Won Joon Kouh/

Reg. No. 42,763 An Attorney for Applicant (609) 631-2435

USPTO Customer No. 08933 DUANE MORRIS LLP